

REMARKS

The herein Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated January 11, 2005, in which claims 1-23 and 28-36 were variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Miller, U.S. Pat. No. 5,131,164, Channell, U.S. Pat. No. 4,910,876, and Walton, U.S. Pat. No. 3,120,058. Claims 21 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller in view of Channell. Claim 34 was objected to as lacking antecedent basis. Claims 24-27 and 37-40 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In addition, the submitted declaration of inventorship was deemed to be defective since it did not identify the citizenship of each inventor.

By this Amendment, the independent claims to the application, claims 1, 15, and 28, and selected dependent claims have been amended to overcome the prior art rejections. The dependency of claim 34 has been changed to provide proper antecedent basis, so as to overcome the objection. In addition, a substitute declaration is included herein, the declaration properly identifying the citizenship of both inventors. The examiner is correct in his presumption that the subject matter of the various currently pending claims was commonly owned at the time the subject invention was made.

Amended claim 1 now includes language defining that the first alignment means comprises dual arms which are positioned in perpendicular relation to each other, each arm having a separate pathway. The claim goes on to now state that the second alignment means also comprises dual arms in perpendicular relation to each other, the arms being removably and adjustably positioned within the pathways of the first alignment means, whereby multiple positionings of the first alignment means in relation to the window being treated and adjustments

of the arms of the second alignment means within the pathways of the first alignment means accomplishes alignment of the provided window treatment in relation to the window.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 1, as now amended, overcomes the prior art rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Neither Miller nor Channel discloses first and second alignment means, each having dual arms each positioned in perpendicular relation to each other, each arm in the first alignment means having a separate pathway for receiving the arms of the second alignment means. Walton also fails to disclose this unique configuration of the two alignment means, each having dual arms each positioned in perpendicular relation to each other, with each arm of the first alignment means having a separate pathway.

In accordance with the objection stated in the Office Action, the allowable subject matter in claim 24 has now been included in independent claim 15 and the allowable subject matter in claim 37 has been incorporated into independent claim 28. Claims 24 and 37 have been cancelled. With the inclusion of this allowable subject matter, claims 15 and 28 are now allowable, as are their respective dependent claims.

The dependency of the still pending dependent claims have been revised accordingly, to reflect dependency on the appropriate independent or dependent claim. The dependency of claim 34 has been changed to overcome the lack of antecedent objection.


Finally, by the submission of a new Declaration for Patent Application, the citizenship of both inventors is affirmed, thus overcoming the objection stated in the Office Action.

It is thus respectfully submitted that all claims currently pending in the application are now allowable and the application itself is in condition for allowance.

If the examiner, upon review of the herein Amendment, believes that additional changes may be appropriate to advance the prosecution of this application, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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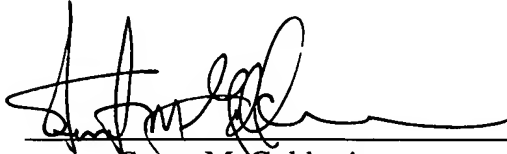


CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE

I certify that the Amendment After First Office Action was sent to Christopher W.

Fulton, Examiner, Art Unit 2859, Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, P.O. Box 1450,

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, via Express Mail #EV 578003079 US on March 24, 2005.



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